<u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>

Docket No.: 111632

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Akio KOBAYASHi, Kiichi FUKUI, Satoshi HARAJIMA, Eiichiro FUKUSAKI, Shinichiro KAJIYAMA, Shinya OKUDA, Takeshi SHOJI

Application No.: New US Patent Application

Filed: January 10, 2002

For:

METHOD FOR PROCESSING CELLS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 3, 7, 8, 11 and 14 as follows:

- 3. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the cell is irradiated with the laser through reflection and condensing.
 - 7. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the laser is at least one laser selected from the group consisting of an YAG laser, an excimer laser, an Ar ion laser, a nitrogen laser and a nitrogen-exited laser.
 - 8. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, which further comprises a step of introducing a foreign matter into the cell and/or the living cell through a laser-irradiated portion thereof after irradiation with the laser beam.
- 11. (Amended) The method set forth in claim 1, wherein the optical fiber is hollow. **A3**